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Office of Parks and Operations

## **PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD**

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

**6:30 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

### **Minutes**

#### **1) Call to Order, Roll Call**

Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

##### **Present:**

Chair Patrick Marchese

Vice Chair Jason Cain

Board Member Joseph Branch

Board Member James Lysaught

Alternate Alderman Brian Parrish

Alderman Kathleen Schneider

Board Member Anton Usowski

Board Member Gerald Vite

Board Member Peter Bratt -- **Absent**

Board Member Geoffery Hurtado -- **Absent**

Board Member Breanne Plier -- **Absent**

Also present were Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Lundeen, Finance Director Krueger, and Administrative Assistant Deuster.

#### **2) Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a. April 21, 2021 Minutes

**RESULT:** **Approved [Unanimous]**

**MOVED BY:** Board Member Vite

**SECONDED BY:** Board Member Lysaught

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| <b>AYES:</b> Marchese, Cain, Branch, Lysaught, Parrish, Schneider, Usowski, Vite |
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#### **3) Action Item**

##### **Discussion and Possible Action**

a. Parks Funding/Municipal Finance

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided recommendations to support as it relates to the FY2021 to the FY2022 budget including restoration of operation and maintenance budget cuts applied for the FY 2021 due to decrease in revenue. Increase the operation and maintenance accounts related to maintenance and repairs that are insufficient. Maintain the \$50,000 capital funding for park improvements. Increase of capital funding for City Facility Improvements, maintenance of capital funding for parking lots, and restoration of previous funding levels for Emerald Ash Borer Abatement.

The board discussed restoring the budget cuts, master planning for neighborhood parks, cap finding for updated signage, wayfinding- logo project, hiring additional staff and costs to parks becoming ADA accessible.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Lundeen stated for budgeting requests providing a list and requesting increases to an account will allow for the board and staff to decide where funding should go versus promoting an increase to a singular item that might lead to the board saying no and you receive no funding for it.

The Finance Director Krueger provided options as possible solutions to increase funding to the parks for improvements. Those options were Park reservation fees get allocated to park improvement capital account, At the end of the fiscal year, unspent parks department operating budget amount gets transferred to the park improvement capital account, increase the tax levy to fund the park improvement capital account, the city could accept donations designated to certain projects or purposes and create a friends of the Mequon parks or park society.

b. Lemke RFP Score Card Discussion

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided the board with score card and interview questions to use for the evaluation of the Lemke Park RFP and looked for feedback on any changes.

c. City of Mequon Strategic Planning Discussion

Chair Marchese provided the board a memo of the boards priorities to have a dialog with the Strategic Planning Team. The intent is to have a brief history on the Park and Open Space Board, our priorities, and a funding mechanism. The priorities are Civic Campus, Master Planning, Stewardship and Maintenance of Natural Areas, and Greenway Plans for the Milwaukee and Little Menomonee Rivers.

Park and Forestry Superintend Gies provided the board with his comments on finding a way to use wayfinding for signage in the Civic Campus. One concern he had was with the Greenway Planning and a disconnect with Community Development and needing the parks department to be at the table for discussions to allow for feedback.

The board discussed the priorities of the strategic planning document with intent to review the full document to provide to the strategic planning team.

4) Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report

a. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided an update on the Rotary Park paving project and the first 1840 Brewing Event held at River Barn Park.

b. 2021 Work Plan

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided the 2021 work plan for review.

5) Motion to Adjourn at 8:33 PM.

**RESULT:** **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

**MOVED BY:** Board Member Lysaught

**SECONDED BY:** Board Member Vite

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| <b>AYES:</b> Marchese, Cain, Branch, Lysaught, Parrish, Schneider, Usowski, Vite |
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Respectfully Submitted,

*Casey Deuster*  
*Administrative Assistant*